

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. LL652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, US, GW
SUBJECT: BRITISH MEDIA ZERO IN ON CARTER MEETING WITH
SCHMIDT

SUMMARY: IN LAST FEW DAYS, BRITISH MEDIA HAVE SPECULATED
AT LENGTH ON US-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP, FOCUSING ON
UPCOMING MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT. SUNDAY TIMES MAY L HEADLINED MEETING AS
"SCHMIDT-CARTER CLASH", AND ARTICLE IN BUSINESS NEWS
SECTION CALLED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO "CHILLY".
ECONOMIST OF APRIL 30 ALSO HIGHLIGHTED PROBLEMS IN
GERMAN-AMERICAN ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY

1. INFLUENTIAL SUNDAY TIMES MAY L FRONT-PAGED
ARTICLE BY GODFREY HODGSON ON UPCOMING ENCOUNTER BETWEEN
PRESIDENT CARTER AND FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, EMPHASIZING
SCHMIDT'S "IRRITATION" WITH ABSENCE OF PERSONAL
COURTESIES AND "ANGER" AT NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION'S
POLICY ON L) HUMAN RIGHTS, 2) INFLATION, 3) NUCLEAR
SALES, AND 4) NATO EQUIPMENT.

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2. ACCORDING TO HODGSON, SCHMIDT FEELS PRESIDENT'S
HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE MAY PUT INTO JEOPARDY WHAT HE
CONSIDERS HIS PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN SECURING RELEASE
OF GERMAN ETHNIC POPULATION FROM EASTERN EUROPE.
SIMILARLY, SCHMIDT ALLEGEDLY RESENTS U.S. PRESSURE
FOR RAPID REFLATION OF GERMAN ECONOMY, WHILE IT KEEPS

TIGHT REIN ON EXPANSION OF ITS OWN DOMESTIC ECONOMY.
OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED BY HODGSON ARE FRG SALE TO BRAZIL
AND NATO BATTLE TANK.

3.ECONOMIST OF APRIL 30 SAID THAT US-GERMAN RELATIONSHIP, SO BASIC TO WESTERN ALLIANCE, WAS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN IT HAS BEEN IN 30 YEARS. ECONOMIST LAID BLAME ON BOTH CARTER AND SCHMIDT, BUT CLEARLY CALLED FOR CARTER TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN REPAIRING THE DAMAGE SINCE SCHMIDT IS "BATTERED CHANCELLOR OF A GERMANY SUDDENLY WALLOWING IN SELF-DOUBT," WHILE PRESIDENT IS "FRESH TO PRESIDENCY OF A NEWLY SELF-CONFIDENT UNITED STATES." ECONOMIST LISTED SEVERAL FACTORS IN ALLEGED WORSENING OF RELATIONSHIP: ABSENCE HIGH-LEVEL ADMINISTRATION AMERICANS AT RECENT MEETINGS IN PRINCETON AND TORQUAY; ABSENCE OF WHITE HOUSE INVITATION FOR SCHMIDT BEFORE THIS; SCHMIDT'S BACKING FOR FORD LAST NOVEMBER; US EFFORTS TO GET GERMANS TO REFLATE; BRAZIL NUCLEAR POWER DEAL; HUMAN RIGHTS; AND NATO TANK ISSUE.

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